

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1709

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to establish a grant program to promote efforts to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to establish a grant program to promote efforts to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterinary Services
5 Investment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERINARY SERVICES AND OUTREACH GRANT**
 2 **PROGRAM.**

3 The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
 4 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by inserting after
 5 section 1415A (7 U.S.C. 3151a) the following:

6 **“SEC. 1415B. VETERINARY SERVICES AND OUTREACH**
 7 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) QUALIFIED ENTITY.—The term ‘qualified
 10 entity’ means the following:

11 “(A) A for-profit or nonprofit entity lo-
 12 cated in the United States that operates a vet-
 13 erinary clinic providing veterinary services—

14 “(i) in a rural area, as defined in sec-
 15 tion 1393(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue
 16 Code of 1986; or

17 “(ii) in response to a veterinarian
 18 shortage situation.

19 “(B) A State, national, allied, or regional
 20 veterinary organization or specialty board rec-
 21 ognized by the American Veterinary Medical
 22 Association.

23 “(C) A college or school of veterinary med-
 24 icine accredited by the American Veterinary
 25 Medical Association.

1 “(D) A university research foundation or
2 veterinary medical foundation.

3 “(E) A department of veterinary science or
4 department of comparative medicine at an ac-
5 credited institution of higher education recog-
6 nized by the Department of Education.

7 “(F) A State agricultural experiment sta-
8 tion.

9 “(G) A State, local, or tribal government
10 agency.

11 “(2) VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATION.—
12 The term ‘veterinarian shortage situation’ means a
13 veterinarian shortage situation determined by the
14 Secretary under section 1415A(b).

15 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

16 “(1) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Secretary
17 shall carry out a program to make competitive
18 grants to qualified entities described in paragraph
19 (2) for the purpose of developing, implementing, and
20 sustaining veterinary services.

21 “(2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligi-
22 ble for a grant under this section, a qualified entity
23 shall carry out programs or activities that the Sec-
24 retary determines will—

1 “(A) substantially relieve veterinary short-
2 age situations;

3 “(B) support or facilitate private veteri-
4 nary practices engaged in public health activi-
5 ties; or

6 “(C) support or facilitate practices of vet-
7 erinarians who are participating in, or have suc-
8 cessfully completed, a service requirement under
9 section 1415A.

10 “(c) AWARD PROCESSES AND PREFERENCES.—

11 “(1) APPLICATION, EVALUATION, AND INPUT
12 PROCESSES.—In administering the grant program
13 under this section, the Secretary shall—

14 “(A) use an appropriate application and
15 evaluation process; and

16 “(B) seek the input of interested persons.

17 “(2) GRANT PREFERENCES.—In selecting quali-
18 fied entities to receive a grant under this section, the
19 Secretary shall give a preference to qualified entities
20 that—

21 “(A) document coordination between or
22 with—

23 “(i) a State, national, allied, or re-
24 gional veterinary organization, a specialty
25 board, or veterinary medical association

1 recognized by the American Veterinary
2 Medical Association;

3 “(ii) the applicable accredited veteri-
4 nary education institution or department
5 of veterinary science or department of
6 comparative medicine at an accredited in-
7 stitution of higher education recognized by
8 the Department of Education; or

9 “(iii) the applicable State veterinarian
10 or animal health official (or equivalent offi-
11 cial); and

12 “(B) will use the grant funds to help to
13 meet veterinary workforce or food protection
14 needs.

15 “(3) ADDITIONAL PREFERENCES.—In awarding
16 grants under this section, the Secretary may develop
17 additional preferences by taking into account—

18 “(A) the amount of funds available for
19 grants; and

20 “(B) the purposes for which the grant
21 funds will be used.

22 “(4) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—
23 Sections 1413B, 1462(a), and subsections (a)(3)
24 and (c) of section 1469 shall apply to the adminis-
25 tration of the grant program under this section.

1 “(d) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.—

2 “(1) RECIPIENT SHARE.—A grant recipient
3 shall provide matching non-Federal funds, either in
4 the form of cash or in-kind contributions, in an
5 amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the
6 Federal funds provided in a grant under this section.

7 “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may establish, by
8 regulation, conditions under which the cost-sharing
9 requirements of paragraph (1) may be reduced or
10 waived.

11 “(e) USE OF GRANT TO RELIEVE VETERINARY
12 SHORTAGE SITUATIONS AND SUPPORT VETERINARY
13 SERVICES.—Funds provided by grants under this section
14 may be used for the following purposes to relieve veteri-
15 nary shortage situations and support veterinary services:

16 “(1) Grants to promote recruitment, placement,
17 and retention of—

18 “(A) veterinarians;

19 “(B) veterinary technicians;

20 “(C) students of veterinary medicine; and

21 “(D) students of veterinary technology.

22 “(2) Grants to assist veterinarians with estab-
23 lishing or expanding practices for the purposes of—

24 “(A) equipping veterinary offices;

1 “(B) sharing in the overhead costs of the
2 practices; or

3 “(C) establishing mobile veterinary facili-
4 ties at which at least a portion of the facilities
5 will address education or extension needs.

6 “(3) Financial assistance for veterinary stu-
7 dents, veterinary interns, externs, fellows, and resi-
8 dents, and veterinary technician students to attend
9 training programs in food safety or food animal
10 medicine to cover expenses other than tuition.

11 “(4) Programs establishing or expanding ac-
12 credited veterinary education programs, veterinary
13 residency and fellowship programs, or veterinary in-
14 ternship and externship programs in coordination
15 with accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

16 “(5) Programs for tele-veterinary medicine at
17 practices that contribute to veterinary extension,
18 education, or research.

19 “(6) Support the ability of the office or position
20 of a State veterinarian or animal health official to
21 coordinate veterinary services and food protection
22 issues described in paragraphs (1) through (5).

23 “(7) Assessments of veterinarian shortage situ-
24 ations and preparation of applications for designa-
25 tion as a shortage situation.

1 “(8) Programs in continuing education and ex-
2 tension (including distance-based education) for vet-
3 erinarians, veterinary technicians, and other health
4 professionals needed to strengthen veterinary pro-
5 grams and enhance food safety.

6 “(9) Faculty recruitment and retention pro-
7 grams at accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

8 “(10) Programs, in coordination with univer-
9 sities or local educational agencies, to encourage stu-
10 dents in secondary schools to pursue a career in vet-
11 erinary medicine or science professions.

12 “(f) PROHIBITION ON USE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR
13 CONSTRUCTION.—Funds made available for grants under
14 this section shall not be used for the construction of a
15 new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, re-
16 modeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility,
17 including site grading and improvement and architect fees.

18 “(g) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after
19 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall
20 promulgate regulations to implement the grant program
21 authorized under this section.

22 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such

1 sums as are necessary to carry out this section for fiscal
2 year 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

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